



State of Washington

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N - Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 - (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207
Main Office location: Natural Resources Building - 1111 Washington Street SE - Olympia, WA

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Name of Proposal: MANSFIELD POND WETLAND ENHANCEMENT

Description of Proposal:

The project area is owned by Bureau of Reclamation and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and is managed by the WDFW. The area is managed for consumptive (hunting and fishing) and non-consumptive (wildlife viewing), fish and wildlife related, recreation and is open to the public year-round.

In 1986 a levee complete with a water-control structure and a small swale for dewatering were constructed to capture spring water, increase wetland acreage (to ~70 acres), and assist in the removal of common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*; occurred during 1987) from the system. The intent of this project was to enhance waterfowl habitat and hunting opportunity. Unfortunately, the water control structure proved to be incapable of draining the entire basin because a low spot occurs within the basin. Further, beaver eventually buried the water control structure, rendering it inoperable and potentially unusable.

Lessons learned from these efforts will allow us to build a more functional design of the original project. The primary objective of this project is to regain control of water levels in the 70-ac Mansfield Pond (150 ac-ft volume) to allow for the control of tall emergent vegetation and potentially fish that compromise the value of the pond for waterfowl and other wetland wildlife. 83% of the wetland is currently covered by tall emergent vegetation, limiting waterfowl use, hunter accessibility, and habitat for breeding amphibians. Once the infrastructure is constructed, management will include maintaining tall emergent vegetation coverage at 25-50% and a relatively fish-free system. When tall emergent vegetation exceeds 50% or carp or other invasive fish begin to negatively influence water quality, submerged aquatic vegetation, or invertebrate production, we will have the ability to dewater the pond, significantly reducing fish populations, and control tall emergent vegetation through mowing and re-flooding over the top of tall emergent vegetation, which will effectively kill the plant. Water level manipulations may be utilized to encourage seasonal vegetative growth (i.e., moist soil management).

Secondary to this objective is to utilize the water released from Mansfield Pond to improve habitat conditions in the lower basins (7.3 surface acres with 15.5 ac-ft of storage capacity). This will be done without compromising the integrity of Homestead Creek (a managed trout fishery) with a surface water connection, because plugs will be installed to ensure water will spill to Crab Creek. The project will spill overflow water to Crab Creek only in the event that the lower basins cannot accommodate the volume released from Mansfield Pond. Unfortunately, we do not know

the rate at which water will penetrate the soils and bedrock in the lower basins, so it is uncertain whether or not overflow to Crab Creek will occur. We will attempt to avoid overflow by slowly releasing water from Mansfield Pond during the dewatering phases.

Proponent/Applicant:

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Location of Proposal, including street, if any: North of Moses Lake, Washington, Grant County; Section 17 & 20, Township 21 North, Range 28 East WM
Approximately 2.75 miles west of junction of Stratford Rd and Rd 15 NE.

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, state law¹ does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS). WDFW made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this DNS according to state rules.² We will **not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 14 days of the date of this letter. This means we must receive your comments by **December 6, 2010**

Method of Comment:

The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA proposals. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal.

You can submit your comments any one of the following ways:

- Email to SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

Responsible Official: Teresa A. Eturaspe

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/> Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or

withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.¹

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Teresa Eturaspe at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call her at (360) 902-2575.

DATE OF ISSUE: November 11, 2010 **SIGNATURE:** 

Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)
2. WAC 197-11-340(2).

SEPA Log Number: 10 -096. dns